

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Observations of a Visitor to Meih sien, Kwangtung	DATE DISTR.	9 November 1954
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4. There were many Russians in Meih sien. They travelled by motorcycle.. The neighbors reported that the Russians came to establish a hospital. The construction of the Huang T'ang (7806/1048) hospital, which was very large, had been completed. A new theater and a public park had been constructed also, both of which had been named after the people. Roads had been paved with asphalt.
5. Not far from Meih sien, but far from the old airfield which was left unused, a new airfield was being built. All the unemployed had gone to work on these constructions. They were receiving pay at 10,000 yuan a day, but were paying for their own food.
6. The farmer's living was very good because there was plenty of land but few farmers. At the time of the "liberation" many people were away, also large quantities of valuables were confiscated from overseas Chinese landlords and distributed

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to the farmers. Every family of poor tenants and farmers had been allocated one cow. Also, the past year's harvest had been a good one. Despite heavier taxes, the farmers were making a better living by owning their own land.

7. There were no food restrictions in Meihsien. The 92 rice was sold a little cheaper than white rice, 92 rice selling for 100,550 yuan as compared with white rice at 120,000 yuan per ton. The oil sold at the co-operatives or food stores was not pure groundnut oil. Those who could afford to, pressed their own groundnut oil. The visitor's mother, having frequent remittances from her sons, was able to do so and had made more than 100 catties of oil. Most of the farmers raised livestock except in cases where food was needed for human consumption. Young pigs could be borrowed from the Farmers' Union.
8. At first, the land owned by a daughter was used as her dowry. Later this practice was discontinued when difficulties developed because the people were living away from the land. It became the rule that the land would be given to the daughter's parents upon her marriage. If the husband was too poor to support the wife, a certain percentage of the crop would be given to the married daughter, the percentage to be assessed by the Farmers' Union.
9. Very few Chinese merchants, having businesses overseas, returned to Meihsien and the majority of people who returned were students. In 1953 a new school, the Overseas Chinese High School, was built to accommodate returned students, but beginning with the spring of 1954, local children were also admitted. There were many junior and senior middle schools in the hsien. All children above seven years of age were required to attend schools. 25X1
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10. There had been military personnel in the village [redacted] but since the villagers believed that peace was prevailing throughout the world there was no need for guards. There were no guerrillas in the vicinity.

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